

From: Greg Glenn [mailto:info@sandscapes.com]

Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 10:15 AM

To: Melissa Miller-Henson

Subject: Regarding the Department of Fish and Game's Preferred MLPA map, Cambria SMR:

Mellisa,

I have recently been in contact with John Ugoretz who has graciously provided me the details concerning the exact location of the northern boundary of the proposed Cambria SMR.

As an avid kayak fisherman who frequents the proposed Cambria SMR area I would like to relay the following observations.

These are very healthy fisheries, they cannot be effectively fished by powerboats, commercial or recreational as the risk of shallow reefs and fouling in the thick kelp there is too great. Sighting any powerboats near shore in this area is uncommon, and I can assure you that the few kayakers and divers presently fishing in this area have little if any effect. As I had mentioned to John, I'm sure there are studies to substantiate the need for an SMR in this area but from my experience the basic premise is frankly a bit puzzling to me

From my discussions with John it appears that information regarding recreational fishing in the Cambria area has been coming primarily from anglers that use the most northerly launch sites, Leffingwell Landing being by far the most popular in the Cambria area. My concern is with the southerly sites in Cambria, Lampton Cliffs, Harvey Street and the Bluff Trail in the Marine Terrace area. These sites are used exclusively by kayakers and divers, with Harvey Street being the most popular of the three.

If the preferred map stands the Cambria SMR will neatly slice in half the traditional fishing grounds adjacent to the Marine Terrace launch sites and makes an already remote area for kayak fisherman even more inaccessible. The difficulty with this area is that there is no access to launch a kayak between Cayucos Point in Cayucos and Marine Terrace in Cambria. That's about 12 miles. On a kayak, if this SMR is adopted, to get to decent fishing grounds from Marine Terrace we will be left with launching and paddling south through the SMR about 6 miles. For kayak fisherman this means that, if you are not in Olympic condition, the SMR will in a practical sense close everything between Point Estero and Marine Terrace.

I recently launched from Harvey Street with map and compass and surveyed the fishing grounds that that are most commonly used in this area. From my reckoning, the SMR would only need to be shifted south approx. 0.3 miles to maintain the current fishing grounds (see attached map). There are not any structures or easily recognizable landmarks at this point, but at approx 0.5 miles there is "White Rock", a very visible exposed rock 0.1 miles off shore.

There is presently a very long stretch of coast to the south that is, for all intents and purposes inaccessible to kayak based fisherman and divers due to distance, and is identical in habitat to the areas enclosed in the proposed SMR. What would be the impact of shifting the entire SMR south slightly in order to keep the areas traditionally fished by us open?

This issue is one that has recently come to the attention of fisherman who frequent the Marine Terrace sites. I have been discussing this issue with every fisherman I meet at there. Most are surprisingly unaware of the proposed SMR but all (I am compiling a list) have been in favor of shifting the proposed SMR south.

Thank you for your time. You may reach me with any questions at (805)440-8701 or at info@sandscapes.com.

Regards,
Greg Glenn